

K's Deadly Secret

LONDON, Oct. 16 (AP).—

Former Premier Khrushchev's vaunted secret weapon blew up in 1960, killing Marshal Mitrofan I. Nedelin and 300 with him, the Guardian said today.

The secret weapon about which Khrushchev boasted was a missile with a nuclear propellant, Victor Zorza, Communist affairs expert of the Guardian, reported.

Quoting secret reports of Oleg Penkovsky, a Russian sentenced to death in 1963 for spying for the West, Mr. Zorza said:

"The countdown went according to plan, but the new missile failed to leave the ground. The observers waited for some 20 minutes, then came out of the shelter.

"At this point the missile exploded, killing 300 people, among them the commander-in-chief of the Soviet missile forces, Marshal Nedelin."

The Guardian account said the accident occurred in the Fall of 1960 as scientists rushed to test the weapon in time for the October Revolution anniversary that year.

AIR MISHAP BLAMED

The Russians announced Oct. 25, 1960, that Nedelin had been killed in an air accident.

Penkovsky's secret reports are being published next month. Mr. Zorza apparently got an advance look at the reports, which were made to British Intelligence and the U. S. Central Intelligence Agency:

The reports are coming out under the title "the Penkovsky Papers" in Britain and the United States.

Mr. Zorza wrote he believes the papers were released by the CIA and probably had been cut. He said the CIA probably agreed to the release as part of the propaganda battle between Soviet and Western intelligence agencies.

CPYRGHT

BERLIN '61 CRISIS

Mr. Zorza reported the Penkovsky Papers also deal with the Berlin crisis of 1961.

Mr. Zorza said Penkovsky reported that Khrushchev's bark was worse than his bite during that crisis.

Penkovsky reported that Soviet military plans were well advanced, with East German troops manning the first line of defense if the West attacked after the signing of a peace treaty with East Germany. Soviet troops were in the second line.

The Soviet idea, Mr. Zorza quoted Penkovsky, was "to win without a fight, but to be ready to fight if it comes to that."

KHRUSH BOASTS

Addressing the Soviet parliament on Jan. 14, 196, Khrushchev spoke of a fantastic new weapon that the Soviet Union was developing.

The Central Committee of the Communist Party and the Soviet government can inform you, comrade deputies," he said, "that though the weapons we now have are formidable weapons, the weapons we have in the hatching stage today is even more perfect, even more formidable.

"The weapon which is being developed—and is, as they say in the portfolio of our scientists and designers—is a fantastic weapon."

Then on March 16, 1962, Khrushchev indicated the weapon had been perfected. At least in a Kremlin speech, he announced the Soviet Union had created a new "global rocket" that could attack the United States from any direction.

'INVULNERABLE'

"Our scientists and engineers," he said, "have created a new intercontinental rocket which they call Global. This rocket is invulnerable to antimissile weapons."

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